The House reassembled after lunch at one minute past two of the Clock,

The Vice-Chairman (*Shri suresh Pachouri)* in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Deposits with Commercial Banks

*2. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in deposits with the scheduled commercial banks;

(b) whether the fall in deposits is direct impact of recent decision to cut down the interest rates on deposits; and

(c) if so, whether the Government would reconsider the interest structure in these banks in order to attract more deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) No, Sir. Deposits of scheduled commercial banks have not recorded any decline. On the contrary, deposits of scheduled commercial banks during the year 2001-2002 have increased from Rs.9,62,618 crore as on March 23, 2001 to Rs.10,78,971 crore as on February 8, 2002.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

VRS for associate Banks of SBI

3. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various employees of the associated banks of the State Bank of India who have submitted